

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
COLLEGE OF  
NURSING



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April 14, 2021

Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
State House, Room 35  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

I write to express my strongest possible support for Article 15 of the proposed FY 2022 budget, H 6122. Article 15 includes important updates to the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) that would benefit Rhode Islanders and the students and faculty at the University of Rhode Island. There are many advantages for the State of Rhode Island to be part of this updated Compact, but I will highlight those benefits related to nursing students and faculty.

The NLC provides numerous educational benefits to the University of Rhode Island (URI) in the recruitment and retention of top nursing students and nursing faculty. The NLC reduces barriers to nurses seeking graduate education in Rhode Island because it eliminates the need for an out-of-state graduate student to obtain a RI license in order to enroll in graduate nursing education at URI. The Compact also facilitates online nursing education by allowing URI nursing faculty to supervise the clinical experiences for students who are engaged in distance learning in other states. The Compact further reduces barriers to online nursing programs because the faculty would not be required to get a license from every state that a student taking online education is from. URI's online nursing education program has been highly successful; however, it is cost prohibitive to meet licensure requirements for faculty in all the states our students, and potential students, live. Hiring additional faculty who hold out-of-state licensure wastes resources and disadvantages faculty who are Rhode Island residents but may only be licensed in Rhode Island. Online education is a standard of the industry, especially now, and the NLC will allow greater access for students.

Without the updated Nursing Licensure Compact in place in Rhode Island, there are many barriers and cost-prohibitive licensure requirements for our students and faculty. In order to successfully recruit nurses to practice in Rhode Island, and recruit online and graduate nursing students, and faculty to URI, the State of Rhode Island must facilitate the licensure process to be consistent with national trends. In this way, we can successfully compete against other states to recruit the best and the brightest nursing professionals to study, teach, and practice in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of this important budget Article. I am available to answer any questions you may have as a result of the Committee hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara E. Wolfe", is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara E. Wolfe  
Dean & Professor